



Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

City of Johnstown, PA

BACKGROUND

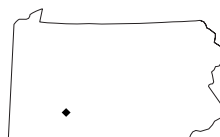
EPA awarded the City of Johnstown supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Johnstown is a small community of 24,000 people in southwestern Pennsylvania. At one time, 70 percent of the city's blue-collar workers were employed in the area's steel mills and coal mines. As market forces changed, most of the mills and other industries closed, leaving Johnstown with abandoned and underused properties. Because these industrial sites were built on the limited amount of flat land in the area's mountainous terrain, reusing them is crucial to improving the environment and providing jobs. The state has designated Johnston as a Distressed Community.

The original Pilot identified 24 brownfields in the city. Site assessments were conducted at four sites, including a vacant brass and electric site and a former engine crushing facility. Supplemental funds are needed to conduct a Phase II assessment of the brass and electric site and environmental assessments at other high priority sites. One likely site is the Cambria Iron Works, a turn-of-the-century steel production facility that the city wants to revitalize into a light industrial area and an educational blacksmith shop. The site was one of the few remaining property holdings of Bethlehem Steel following its closure in 1992 and was unavailable for environmental assessment and reuse until it was deeded to the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority in 2001.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Johnstown is a distressed community with limited land suitable for economic development. The city's primary focus is to create family-sustaining jobs on former industrial sites. The supplemental assistance will move more brownfields into economic redevelopment by building on the information obtained during the original Pilot inventory and conducting Phase I and II environmental assessments

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Johnstown,
Pennsylvania*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 150,000

GreenSpace: \$ 50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets former steel mills and other industrial brownfields properties in Johnstown, which has been designated a Distressed Community by the state.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA Region 3
(215) 814-3129

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmdbfs/index.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

and cleanup plans for high priority properties. Target sites will be determined based on priorities set through partnerships with the community.

Greenspace funding will be used to conduct a Phase I and, if necessary, a Phase II environmental assessment of an auto repair shop adjacent to Johnstown's War Memorial Arena. The greenspace site was used originally as an industrial backfill and is the only space available next to the arena to construct a veterans park and memorial plaza.

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Updating the citywide inventory of potential brownfields sites;
- Conducting Phase I and II environmental assessments at high priority sites;
- Identifying cleanup alternatives appropriate for the environmental problems identified during site assessment;
- Encouraging community input regarding specifically targeted sites; and
- Conducting Phase I and II environmental assessments needed for greenspace adjacent to Johnstown's War Memorial Arena.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.